GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3063
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
ECONOMIC INTEREST OF SCS/STS
K.H. MUNIYAPPA;M. JAGANNATH;MALYALA RAJAIAH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Article 46 of the Constitution directs the State `to promote with special care the economic and other interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular of the SCs and STs` so as to protect them from social injustice and exploitation and to overcome the prevailing deep rooted social prejudices and historical economic handicaps suffered by them; and

(b) if so, the details of schemes/programmes being implemented by his Ministry `to promote with special care` the economic interests of the SCs and STs so as to enable them to overcome historical economic handicaps and to join mainstream of our national life by participating in the activities of trade, commerce storage, transportation and distribution of food and other consumer articles?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is not having any schemes/ programmes specifically aimed at promoting the economic interests of the SCs/STs. However, a Scheme for supply of foodgrains to SC/ST/OBC Hostels is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment where the hostels, having 2/3 students belonging to these categories, are eligible to get 15 Kg. foodgrains per resident per month.

The foodgrains are supplied by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) at BPL rates from 1.11.2000. The annual requirement of foodgrains under the Scheme is 2.45 lakh MTs. The foodrains are supplied by FCI against authorizations issued by District Collectors/ and other designated District authorities in favour of the hostels.